JULY 1983

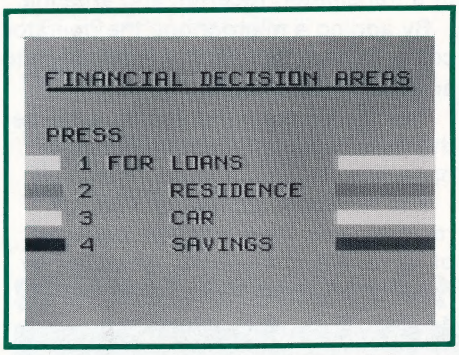
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
HOME COMPUTER NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED FOR TI-99/4A USERS

SOFTWARE REVOLUTIONIZES HOUSEHOLD PLANNING, FORECASTING AND RECORD KEEPING

Thinking about buying a car but unsure of monthly payments? Considering moving into a new home but wondering what type of monthly mortgage payments to expect?

With the help of TI's **Home Financial Decisions**, getting answers to questions such as these is as easy as turning on your Home Computer.



Home Financial Decisions — Four financial decision areas are available.

This home decisions package is one member of the family of popular TI software applications found in the Information Management Series.

Home Financial Decisions is designed to give users a method for thorough analysis so they can make informed decisions in four areas: buying a car, applying for a loan, changing residences, or planning a savings goal.

By giving the computer basic information such as the desired size and number of monthly payments, down payments, and interest rates, the computer is then able to automatically compute the following types of information:

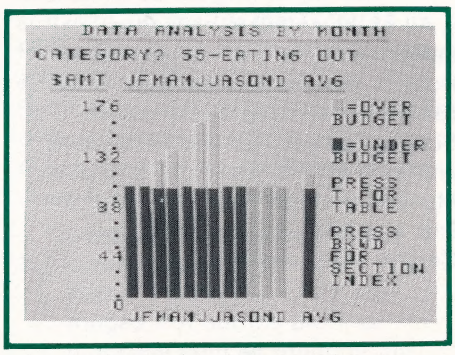
- Loan limitations
- Size of payments
- Monthly property taxes
- Monthly insurance payments
- Mortgage payments
- Appreciation
- Market value
- Expected annual percent increase in market value
- Total interest paid

Users also can effectively utilize the cartridge to evaluate alternate choices by simply varying input data. The cartridge is available from TI retailers at a suggested retail price of $29.95.

Another popular information management application from TI is **Household Budget Management**. This cartridge helps users set up a budget system which coordinates income and expenses on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. The program helps users establish budget guidelines, track income and expenses, and spot problem areas.

Data is analyzed automatically according to category, month, and year. Convenient-to-use graphs give users first-glance indications of those areas which have been over-budgeted, under-budgeted, and those items which fall right into line with the proposed budget.

A storage system, either a Disk Memory System* or a TI Program Recorder, is required for storing data. Household Budget Management is



Household Budget Management — A graphic analysis of the budgeted category: Eating out. This table offers a breakdown by month of the proposed expenditures.

available at a suggested retail price of $39.95.

For the more ambitious homeowner who wants to map out an extensive family financial forecast which can easily be changed and updated as the need arises, there is TI's Microsoft™ Multiplan ™+.

Microsoft™ Multiplan™ is an electronic worksheet which helps users analyze data by utilizing row-column calculations. The computer performs calculations automatically, eliminating the need for hand calculations.

By varying proposed expenditures, users can easily see a projected return under different situations.

This package requires a Disk Drive and Controller Card, and a Memory Expansion Card used in conjunction with the Peripheral Expansion System. An RS-232 Interface Card and a compatible printer are necessary if printed calculations are needed.

Microsoft™ Multiplan™ is available at a suggested retail price of $99.95. This package works only with the TI-99/4A computer.

Still another application in the Information Mangement Series is **Personal Record Keeping.** This cartridge helps users organize and set up customized files for many different purposes.

This package can be effectively used to keep track of important information such as car maintenance records, medical and dental records, or even a household goods inventory. Files can be updated or changed easily at any time.

The program is designed to allow users to analyze entire files or a selected subset of a particular file.

Organizing facts in an orderly, convenient, and easily accessible way

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SOFTWARE REVOLUTIONIZES

Continued from Page 1

is easy when using this computer-based filing system.

Personal Record Keeping has a suggested retail price of $49.95. A storage system, either a Disk Memory System* or a TI Program Recorder are required to keep permanent records. An RS-232 Card* and a compatible printer are required for printed records.

Personal Report Generator is a software package which allows users to produce customized reports from files created with the Personal Record Keeping cartridge.

The cartridge has two main sections: Data File Management and Report Management. The data file management section allows a user to manipulate previously defined files. A user may combine two compatible files to create another file, for example.

The report management section allows users to work on existing data files to design report formats and to test formats before printing out full reports.

This cartridge is available at a suggested retail price of $39.95. Personal Report Generator requires a storage system, either a Disk Memory System* or a TI Program Recorder. An RS-232 Interface Card* and a compatible printer are required for print-outs.

With TI's **Tax/Investment Record Keeping** package, users have a useful system for organizing and recording tax and investment data. The following major categories make up the Tax/Investment file structure:

- Asset/Liability
- Income
- Expenses, including:
  Household
  Transportation
  Business
  Food
  Personal
  Miscellaneous

Users easily can keep a record of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The program also helps keep track of both taxable and tax-exempt income, plus users can keep records of tax-deductible expenses.

Tax/Investment Record Keeping requires the use of a Disk Memory System.* The cartridge has a suggested retail price of $69.95.

The user who is a serious investor will be interested in TI's **Securities Analysis** software package. This package offers users a variety of securities analysis techniques. Financial tools such as stock analysis, call options, option spreads, bond analysis, calculations of compound interest, annuities, and variable cash flow are included.

Securities Analysis is available at a suggested retail price of $39.95.

Also available to Home Computer users is **TI-Writer,** a word processing package. This application enables TI-99/4A users to convert their computers into a word processing system.

Many of the features found in larger, more complex word processing systems are now available on the Home Computer with this package.

TI-Writer equips the TI-99/4A with such features as:

- Inserting and deleting lines
- Automatic paragraph indention
- Right margin justification
- Moving and copying text
- Document reformatting

TI-Writer is available at the suggested retail price of $99.95. The package requires a Disk Drive and Controller Card, and a Memory Expansion Card used in conjunction with the Peripheral Expansion System. An RS-232 Interface Card and compatible printer also are required.

All of the software packages mentioned here may be purchased from TI retailers in your area, or by calling the toll-free TI Consumer Software Line: 1-800-858-4075. Lines are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Friday, Central Standard Time.

*Used in conjunction with the Peripheral Expansion System

+ A trademark of Microsoft, Inc.

HOBBY APPLICATIONS:

A common question asked by people interested in the Home Computer is if it can interface with a HAM radio.

If you're like most of us, you're likely to answer the question with a question: What's a HAM Radio?

HAM radio enthusiasts have been around for about 70 years. The term HAM is actually a slang term for amateur radio operators. The slang derivative was developed from the British pronunciation "hamatures."

HAM radio operators use a number of different radio applications. However, they must first earn a license from the Federal Communications Commission by demonstrating their expertise in using equipment and knowledge of electronics.

The earliest form of HAM radio operations was to send and receive Morse Code. The radio system consisted of a transmitter, receiver, and antenna.

By adding a microphone, the operator could actually talk over the air waves to another HAM operator.

The microphone use continues to be the most popular form of HAM radio operation.

The next area to develop was radioteletype. Radioteletype consists of sending and receiving messages by typing information on a keyboard. The

KEY TO SPANISH

The first language teaching software package for the TI-99/4A is scheduled to be available this summer. The package, **Key To Spanish**, is designed to teach vacation travelers and business people Spanish as it is spoken in Central and South America.

Emphasis on words and phrases most common in day-to-day Spanish usage make this package ideal for the occasional traveler. An introductory lesson, and six subsequent lessons are included in Key To Spanish. Pronunciation and vocabulary building are major areas of concentration.

The package consists of four cartridges and four cassette tapes which are automatically controlled by the program cartridge. Use of cassette tapes provide the user with a clear, distinct pronunciation of every word. Screen graphics illustrating words and phrases add to the teaching effectiveness of Key To Spanish.

Users will find that Key To Spanish

HAMMING IT UP WITH THE TI HOME COMPUTER

information can be monitored and received on a printer, display screen, or both.

There are two types of codes commonly sent via a teletype set up: BAUDOT (a 5 bit code commonly referred to as RTTY) and ASCII (the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a 7 bit code). Teletype codes are like programming languages: users must speak the same languages. A HAM cannot send a BAUDOT message to someone who is receiving ASCII, for example.

A recent development in the HAM arena is slow-scan TV-transmission. With the addition of a television camera, a HAM operator actually can send or receive black and white or color pictures via audio tones sent over the radio frequencies. Because of band width limitations, only one frame can be sent at a time.

The Home Computer, along with special software programs, can enhance HAM radio operations in a number of ways.

For Morse Code operations, the HAM uses a transmitter, receiver, and antenna. The TI-99/4A console can be connected to the transmitter and receiver audio jacks via an interface. The interface transforms the audio tones into on and off impulses, similar to the way cassette and modem interfaces work.

The TI-99/4A is popular for teletype uses because programs can be written to automatically convert messages from BAUDOT to ASCII, and vice versa.

The greatest benefit the 99/4A could provide to slow scan users, with the appropriate software, is computer enhancement of incoming signals. Generally the audio tones are received in a pattern, and it is not unusual for some of these patterns to be lost due to fading signals. Software can be written which will instruct the computer to fill in these patterns where needed in a logical sequence. The picture can be received on the screen or saved and later reproduced on a printer.

In order to perform HAM radio operations with the TI-99/4A, the following is required: a TI-99/4A console, an interface and appropriate software, a transmitter and receiver (for Morse Code operations), plus a monitor and/or printer (for teletype operations). The addition of a separate interface and camera is necessary for slow scan operations. HAMs also are required to have a current FCC license.

The TI-99/4A is the choice of most HAMs because it produces low Radio Frequency Interference (RFI). Although most computers are licensed not for producing interference with common consumer devices such as televisions and stereos, many produce RFI with HAM radio systems.

Many HAM enthusiasts prefer to build their own interfaces and write their own software, usually in Assembly Language because of the speed of the language.

However, there is a company which offers an interface and software compatible with the TI-99/4A. For more information, write to: Kantronics, 1202 E. 23rd St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

In addition, a new net (a regularly scheduled on-the-air meeting) has been started for HAMs who have a 99/4A HAM set up. Operators can communicate with other HAMs on a frequency of 3.927 MHZ Wednesday nights beginning at 10 p.m. Eastern Time. The net is organized by Robert Tinney, WA8DSV, in Kalamazoo, Mi. If you are interested in trading data, learning more about your TI computer, or just talking with other owners, join in.

can provide them with instruction similar to a beginning Spanish course. Users may control the learning pace of the software package by disconnecting the cassette player from the computer and operating it manually.

A 150-page instruction manual with supplementary exercises is included with the package. The manual contains a Spanish/English, English/Spanish glossary.

Key To Spanish has been developed by TI under license with Westinghouse Learning Corporation. The suggested retail price is $149.95.

SOFTWARE VALUE PACK

Two money-saving TI Software Value Packs will be available to consumers in August. These packages will bring consumers popular TI software at bargain prices.

With the **TI Entertainment Value Pack**, consumers can save more than $50 on entertaining software for every member of the family.

The value pack contains six entertainment programs, a $154.70 value for a special suggested promotional price of $99.95.

The six programs included in this package are:

Parsec — One of TI's most popular entertainment programs. In Parsec, a player must battle attacking waves of alien spacecraft in outer space while scoring points for every enemy ship destroyed.

Adventure — Adventure

PROGRAMMING TIPS FROM USERS GROUP M

From time to time we publish programming tips from members of various Users Groups.

• Printed here are two programming tips from Tom Boisseau, a member of the Atlanta 99/4A Computer Users Group (A9CUG).

Continue Command Tip:

Don't forget to use the continue command if your program halts before completion. (A program will break if you mistakenly hit the FCTN 4, or CLEAR key when reaching for FCTN 3 or 5). Never use the command RUN in an attempt to resume the program. This will wipe out all your defined variables and all your strings. This means that you must go right back to the beginning and re-input all of your data. Instead, use the command CON. This command is a lifesaver. By using this command, you will cause the program to resume without changing or eliminating any of the numeric or string variables.

Terminal Emulator II Tip:

When trying to transmit cassette files via a modem to another TI computer, be sure to ALWAYS select the 8-bit file transfer option. The choice of a 7-bit data transfer at the file transfer stage will cause the transmission to fail. To avoid this,

S: MORE FUN FOR YOUR MONEY

International's very popular computer simulation game. Solving each adventure requires the use of a player's powers of logical reasoning. This computer mind-game pits players in undertakings of mystery and unknown risks.

The Adventure cartridge comes with the Pirate Adventure in cassette form.*

Blasto+ — It's a race against time for players who must destroy a field of mines. One or two persons may play this fast-paced game.

Hangman+ — An adaptation of the popular school game of guess-the-word by filling in the blanks. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Connect Four+ — A challenging strategy game for ages 10 and up. Players must get four markers in a row (down, across, or diagonally) to win.

Oldies But Goodies : Games II — Includes the all-time favorite games of Hammurabi, Hidden Paris, Peg Jump, 3D Tic-Tac-Toe, and Word Safari. This program comes in cassette form.

With the **TI Variety Value Pack**, consumers can get four cassette-based software applications for a suggested promotional price of $49.95. This is a $64.80 value.

The TI Variety Value Pack contains the following cassette software:

Beginning BASIC Tutor — A thorough introduction to TI BASIC for users who want to learn to program the TI BASIC computer language.

Market Simulation — Players participate in simulated business competition where success lies in the effective handling of such factors as changing economic conditions and employee strikes.

Personal Financial Aids — Contains programs on loan amortization schedules, depreciation computations, and mortgage analysis.

Oldies But Goodies: Games I — Includes Word Scramble, Number Scramble, Tic-Tac-Toe, Biorhythm, and Factor Foe.

These TI Software Value Packs will be available from TI retailers in August. Check with your local TI retailer for value pack availability in your area.

*Additional Adventure cassettes are available but must be purchased separately. All Adventure cassettes require the use of the Adventure cartridge.

+Blasto, Hangman, and Connect Four are registered trademarks of Milton Bradley.

EMBERS

remember to ALWAYS select 8-bit when making transmissions from one cassette to another TI-99/4A.

•The following comes from John Leeke of the Greater Sanford 99/4A Users Group.

Here is a subprogram which will allow a user to print at any location on the screen, using DISPLAY and PRINT statements.

Place the following coding after the END statement in your program listing. Be sure the line numbers are greater than the END statement line number.

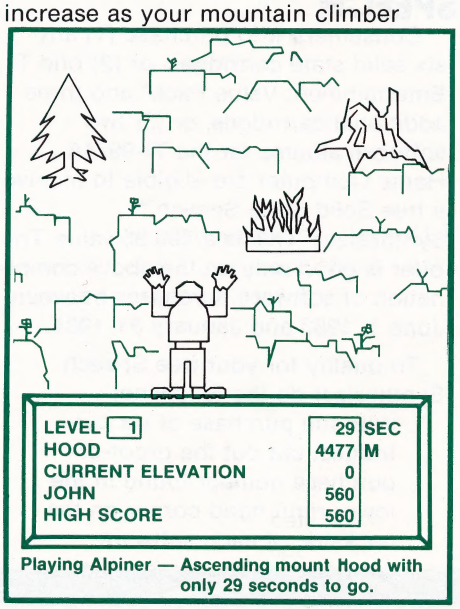
```
1100 REM COORDINATE DISPLAY SUBP.
1110 REM DISPLAYS STRING TO END OF SCREEN LINE BEGINNING AT SPECIFIED COORDINATES
1120 REM INPUT: S$-STRING TO BE DISPLAYED; R-ROW; C-COLUMN
1130 REM LOCAL: CC-ASC CHARACTER CODE; CP-CHARACTER POSITION IN STRING
1140 REM OUTPUT: DISPLAYS S$ BEGINNING ON R, C
1150 FOR CP=1 TO LEN (S$)
1160 CC=ASC (SEG$ (S$, CP, 1))
1170 CALL HCHAR (R, C+CP-1, CC)
1180 NEXT CP
1190 RETURN
```

ALPINER CHALLENGES SPEED AND SKILL

It's a struggle against time and perilous obstacles every time you plug an Alpiner cartridge into your TI-99/4A Home Computer.

Alpiner is a daring game of speed and skillful manipulation. The objective is to safely maneuver the mountain-climbing alpiner to the top of six of the world's highest peaks.

The alpiner scales the brutal terrain of each mountain in a race against time and perilous obstacles such as land slides, dangerous mountain beasts, and wild brush fires. Hazards increase as your mountain climber nears the top of the mountain.



Playing Alpiner — Ascending mount Hood with only 29 seconds to go.

The key to success lies in the player's ability to get his alpiner to the mountain summit by successfully circumventing the various obstacles and hazards. The alpiner must avoid these or he will plummet down the mountainside.

Bonus points are awarded to climbers who scale the mountain in record-breaking time. There are also bonus points for players who hit special target points periodically flashed in the extended paws of wild mountain beasts.

Alpiner has eighteen different levels of increasingly difficult game play. The eighteen levels of play are divided into three rounds of six levels each. Each level corresponds to one of the six mountains to be scaled.

The movement of the alpiner on the screen can be controlled either from the keyboard or by the Wired Remote Controllers. One or two people may play Alpiner.

Alpiner is designed to work with or without the Speech Synthesizer. Use of the Speech Synthesizer enhances the game by enabling voices to warn the player of approaching obstacles and by commenting on a player's performance.

Alpiner has a suggested retail price of $39.95.

NEW USERS GROUPS

Nine new users groups have joined the growing list of TI recognized computer Users Groups. They are:

Rock 99 Computer Club
Rt. 5 Box 399
Edgerton, WI 53534

Piedmont 99'ers Computer Group
P.O. Box 5921
Greenville, SC 29606

Chautauqua County Users Group
2209 Big Tree Road
Lakewood, NY 14750

Sumter Computer Club 99'ers
875 Bay Blossom Avenue
Sumter, SC 29150

North Jersey 99er Group
52 Laura Avenue
Wanaque, NJ 07465

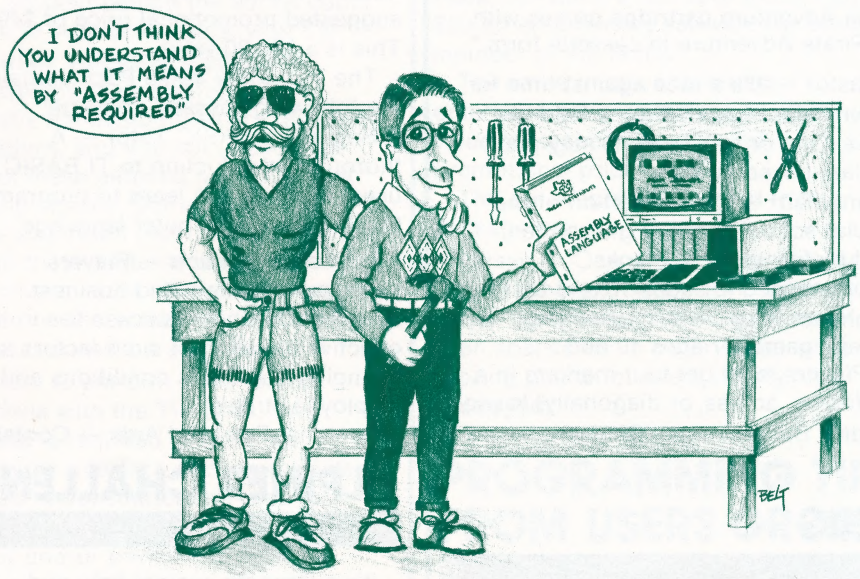
Lincoln 99er Users Group
5810 Elkcrest Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516

Lower Michigan 99/4A Users Group
18659 Lucy
Allen Park, MI 48101

Summitt 99'er Users Group
807 Washington Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Southside 99/4A Computer UG
356 Norwood Drive
Danville, VA 24540

RAM & ROM



SPECIAL CONSUMER PROMOTIONS FROM TI

FREE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION SYSTEM

Beginning May 15, consumers who purchase any three of the following TI Home computer products will be eligible to receive a free Peripheral Expansion System (PES), a $250 value. Three of the following items must be purchased to qualify:

- Disk Controller Card
- Disk Memory Drive
- Memory Expansion Card
- RS-232 Card
- P-code Card
- TI-Writer, a word processing package
- Microsoft™ Multiplan™, a computerized spreadsheet

This offer is available from TI retailers at the time of purchase (all three items must be purchased at the same time). Orders for three of the qualifying items may be placed by calling the toll-free TI Consumer Software Line: 1-800-858-4075. Consumers who order three of the qualifying items at one time by phone also are entitled to a free PES.

ANNOUNCING FREE SPEECH

Consumers who purchase (1) any six solid state cartridges, or (2) one TI Entertainment Value Pack* and three additional cartridges, or (3) two software albums for the TI-99/4A Home Computer are eligible to receive a free Solid State Speech™ Synthesizer. This is a $99.95 value. The offer is good only on the above combination of software purchases between June 1, 1983 and January 31, 1984.

To qualify for your free Speech Synthesizer do the following:

1. With the purchase of six cartridges, cut out the proof-of-purchase number found in the lower right hand corner on the backside of each software cartridge instruction manual.
2. With the purchase of one TI Entertainment Value Pack and three cartridges, cut UPS code from the value pack and the proof of purchase numbers from the instruction manuals of the remaining three cartridges.
3. With the purchase of two software albums, send in the identification card found on the front of each album.

Send the requirements of either (1), (2), or (3) above, with the completed free speech coupon (found at your retailer's), plus the original sales receipt(s) (no photocopies) to: FREE SPEECH, P.O. Box 10522, Lubbock, TX 79408. The postmark must be no later than March 1, 1984.

*The TI Entertainment Value Pack consists of the following six cartridges: Parsec, Adventure (with cassette), Blasto+, Hangman+, Connect Four+, and Oldies But Goodies/II. This $154.70 value pack sells for only $99.95 beginning in August 1983.

+Blasto, Hangman, and Connect Four are registered trademarks of Milton Bradley.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE DEALERS

The newest independent software companies to produce software for TI Home Computers are listed below.

For more information on the software produced by each company, write to the address listed.

The codes indicate the major types of software available from each producer.

IM - Information Mangement
E - Entertainment
ED - Education
C - Computer Literacy
O - Other

E
Gembar Graphics
416 Ocean Ave.
Suite #8
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

E
Daniel A. DeAngelis
RD #1 Box 121 B
Hershey, PA 17033

ED
John Wood
1141 Rimer Dr.
Moraga, CA 94556

ED
E
O
Tigercub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43213

ED
E
Gold Coast Avionics
908 Alamanda Dr.
North Palm Beach, Fl 33408

ED
E
O
Northern Light Software
P.O. Box 11982
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada, TSJ-3L1

E
O
Alpha 2 Computer Services
4859 South Spencer St.
Seattle, WA 98118

ED
E
Micro-Melamed Software Co.
6130 Coralridge Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78413

ED
Soundware
6657 W. Hinsdale Ave.
Littleton, CO 80123

IM
E
ED
C
James Harvey
159 Dover Rd.
Spartanburg, SC 29301

ED
Theobyte
522 Leavenworth Rd.
Kansas City, Kansas 66104

E
Welcom Software Technology
9219 Katy Freeway
Suite 175 B
Houston, TX 77024

HOTLINE DIRECTORY

CONSUMER HOTLINE
The consumer Hotline is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Friday. The national number is 1-800-858-4565.

CONSUMER SOFTWARE LINE
Consumers unable to purchase software from local dealers can order software from TI by calling 1-800-858-4075 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Friday.

CONSUMER TECHNICAL LINE
Home Computer users can call the technical line for questions about programming and applications. The line is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 3:15 p.m. on Friday. The direct number is 1-806-741-2663.

TI COMPUTER ADVANTAGE CLUB
Consumers can call the TICAC line for class information and to register for classes. The lines are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from Noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The national number is 1-800-858-4069.

All Hours are Central Standard Time.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

The Texas Instruments Home Computer Newsletter is published monthly for TI computer users.

Editorial questions and suggestions should be sent to TI, P.O. Box 10508, MS 5882, Lubbock, TX 79408, ATTN: Editor.

Inquiries about Home Computer Users Groups should be sent to TI, P.O. Box 10508, MS 5890, Lubbock, TX 79408, ATTN: Users Group Coordinator.

Third party software developers should direct all correspondence to TI, P.O. Box 10508, MS 5890, Lubbock, TX 79408, ATTN: Third Party Software Manager.

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